REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Second Amendment After Final, Applicant proposes to amend claims 8 and 21 to place them in better form for consideration on appeal, proposing to amend claim 8 to recite "grouping, in a 4-bit zero detection unit," "determining, in the 4-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from the 4-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from a flag information generation unit," "incrementing, in a 4-bit increment unit," "performing, in an increment output unit," and "outputting, from the increment output unit," and proposing to amend claim 21 to recite "grouping, in a b-bit zero detection unit," "determining, in the b-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from the b-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from a flag information generation unit," "incrementing, in a b-bit increment unit," "performing, in an increment output unit," and "generating, in the increment output unit," all in order to better define the claimed invention.

Applicant also proposes to amend claims 8 and 21 to delete the recitation "wherein the method is implemented in a microprocessor". Additionally, Applicant proposes other amendments to claims 8, 11, 21, 24, and 25 to improve clarity. No new matter is introduced.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-28 were pending in the application. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-28 remain pending in the application.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8-14 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and allowed claims 1-7, 15-20, 27, and 28.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 1-7, 15-20, 27, and 28 are allowed.

Examiner Interview

Applicant's representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on September 6, 2007. Items discussed included: pending claims 8 and 21; and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101. No agreement with respect to the pending claims was reached.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

As discussed above, Applicant proposes to amend claim 8 to recite "grouping, in a 4-bit zero detection unit," "determining, in the 4-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from the 4-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from a flag information generation unit," "incrementing, in a 4-bit increment unit," "performing, in an increment output unit," and "outputting, from the increment output unit," and proposes to amend claim 21 to recite amend claim 21 to recite "grouping, in a b-bit zero detection unit," "determining, in the b-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from the b-bit zero detection unit," "outputting, from a flag information generation unit," "incrementing, in a b-bit increment unit," "performing, in an increment output unit," and "generating, in the increment output unit," all in order to better define the claimed invention.

At least partially as a result, Applicant submits that independent claim 8 (as well as dependent claims 9-14) and independent claim 21 (as well as dependent claims 22-26) provide a practical application that produces a useful, tangible, and concrete result. Furthermore, because the methods of claims 8-14 and 21-26 are implemented in associated apparatuses, they do not preempt use of the underlying algorithm. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 8-14 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Request for Reconsideration and Allowance

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-28 in connection with the present application is

earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By _____

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